

BANNER RIDGE YURT SUMMER GUIDE²⁰¹²

The Banner Ridge yurt is a very popular yurt because it is only a few hundred yards from a passable road and has a spectacular view to the north and east. From Banner Ridge are beautiful views of the South Fork of the Payette River Canyon, Bear Valley, Scott Mountain and the scenic Sawtooth Mountains. Many miles of high elevation primitive roads and trails are available for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. One backcountry road near the yurt descends 3000 feet in 12 miles to Kirkham Hot Springs (a primitive soaking pool next to the river) near Lowman. The yurt's high elevation (6,500 feet) guarantees an assortment of wild flowers all summer long. This is also a wonderful place to experience the power of a summer thunderstorm, view the stars of the Milky Way, watch wildlife, or just to curl up and read a book. The yurt is usually snow free mid-May to early November.

PLEASE READ THE SUMMER YURT MANUAL FOR MORE DETAILS AND HOW TO GET THE YURT CODE.

How to get the code:

By email: judy.ditto@idpr.idaho.gov and the Yurt Coordinator will email the code back to you.

How to Get There: The Banner Ridge yurt is accessed by the Banner Ridge Park N' Ski parking lot which is 23.5 miles north of Idaho City on Highway 21, just past mile marker 61. Across from this parking lot, turn right off the highway onto a gravel road. You will immediately pass a toilet. Drive on this gravel road about 2 miles to the yurt parking spot. This road is shown as part of the Elkhorn Loop on the yurt location map. This trail has five inch (5") blue diamond shapes (blue blazes) located on trees beside the road. The road to the yurt will continually climb until you reach the top of the ridge. Do not turn off on any side roads on the way up. A high clearance vehicle is recommended because of the water bars on the road. You will come to a 2-foot yellow diamond shape (blaze) attached to a post. Hike beyond the yellow sign, following the 5" yellow blazes down the trail to the yurt.

Where to Park: You will know you are at the parking spot when you see a 2-foot yellow diamond shape (blazes) attached to a post. Please park to the right of the post off the road. **You cannot see the Banner Ridge yurt from the Elkhorn Loop trail or the yellow blaze.**

Elevation Change and Distance:

From the summer parking it is a 50 ft elevation descent along a 300-yard long single-track trail marked by 5" yellow blazes to the yurt.

Dogs:

From Dec 1st through April 15th dogs are not allowed. All other times dogs are allowed.

Solar Power:

This yurt has a solar unit with four lights. Please do not change the panel location. Use the lights when needed, turn them off when not in use and at the end of your stay.

Wood:

Wood for the stove is located under the deck. Wood for the fire pit is on the ground surrounding the yurt site. There are several downed trees in the area which can be cut with the bow saw or axe provided. Please use downed, dry timber, as it helps clean up the area and aides in fire protection.

Water:

There is water available within 350 yards of the yurt. From the yurt, hike down the drainage about 150 yards and down 50 feet in elevation until you come to a visible roadbed. Turn right on the level roadbed and travel 200 yards on the road. At this point, look downhill about 30 feet to see a 4x4 post sticking out of the ground. Five feet downhill from the base of this pole is a spring that comes directly out of the ground. We recommend that this water be boiled for 10 minutes or drawn with a water filter system.

Equipment Needed:

Bring two (2) one-pound propane bottles per each night of your stay, a packet of lantern mantles and a roll of paper towels. **A list of recommended items for your yurt trip is at the back of the**

summer yurt manual.

Maps Needed:

Idaho City Area Park N' Ski Location Map, Banner Ridge Summer Trail Route to Banner Ridge Yurt.
(on website)

Other Maps that may be valuable to you.

USFS Forest Road, and USGS 7.5 minute topographic "Lowman."

Global Positioning System Locations

UTM (in NAD 83/WGS 84): Note UTM's are rounded to nearest 10 meters Banner Ridge Parking Lot:
11T0611730E 4875470N

Banner Ridge Yurt: 11T 0613220E 4877070N

Elevations:

Banner Ridge Parking Lot on Highway 21: **5,764**

feet Banner Ridge Summer Parking: **6,476 feet**

Banner Ridge Yurt: **6,425 feet**

Safety: The nearest telephone is in Lowman. For emergencies call Boise County Sheriff:
1-800-479-0911 or in a medical emergency: **1-800-632-8000**. There is cell phone coverage for some
cell phone systems at the high point on the Elkhorn trail once you are on top of the Banner Ridge.
There is also possible coverage from Beaver Creek Summit on Highway 21. Do not depend on
coverage in those areas.

REPORT YURT DAMAGE OR MISSING ITEMS TO 208-514-2418 or 208-514-2419

PLEASE, DO NOT FEED ANY WILD ANIMALS.
IT CAN LEAD TO THE ANIMALS CHEWING OR TEARING THE YURT SKIN